Connally Studies Snipings

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — Gov. John B. Connally began studying today the Charles Whitman homicide rampage which left 16 persons dead and 31 wounded. He planned to call a meeting of key law officers to see if anything can be done to stem possible future such occurrences.

At a late hour, the governor had not set a date for the conference, but his own staff gathered in his office to discuss the case.

The possibility that brain disease caused the 25-year-old Whitman to go berserk was raised yesterday when a surgeon who performed an autopsy reported the ex-Marine had a tumor which might have caused intense pain.

A University of Texas psychiatrist, Dr. Maurice Dean Heatly, disclosed that during an interview last March 29 Whitman said he thought about going up in the campus tower "with a deer rifle and shooting people."

Most of the victims in Whitman's outburst Monday were felled by rifle shots from the tower's 27th-floor level.

Dr. Heatly said Whitman, whom he described as "self-centered and egocentric," failed to keep an appointment for a further interview the following week.

The psychiatrist's assessment of Whitman's personality came as a surprise to a 26-year-ol Dallas man who said the former Marine was his roommate at the University in 1962.

"He was not just an average nice guy—he was above average," the man, who insisted on anonymity, told an interviewer.

"He was a typical all-American boy, and one of the most amicable fellows I've ever met.

"Charlie was the easiest person in the world to get along with. As a roommate, he was superb."

Dr. Heatly, however, said that in the March interview Whitman told of having "overwhelming periods of hostility with a very minimum of provocation" and admitted that he had twice beaten his wife—one of his victims.

Justice of the Peace Jerry Dellana quoted a surgeon who performed an autopsy on Whitman as saying the tumor found in his brain "could have caused intense pain—headaches—that could have indirectly caused or contributed to his actions."

Dellana said the surgeon stressed the tumor "did not have anything to do with the part of the brain that affected logical thinking."

Meanwhile, arrangements were made to fly the bodies of Whitman and his mother, the first person killed in Mondays mass slayings, to their home town of Lake Worth, Fla. for funeral services and burial Friday.

The body of Whitman's wife, a pretty 23-year-old science teacher who was his second victim, was sent to her former home in Needville, Tex., 35 miles southwest of Houston, where funeral services were scheduled this afternoon. Burial will be in nearby Rosenberg.

In Lake Worth, C. A. Whitman said, "My son has committed a crime that is a great horror to the whole world."

"I know you all realize that this boy is sick. I don't know what else to say about him."

Whitman, a 47-year-old plumbing contractor, was answering newsmen's questions yesterday about his son.

Whitman said he was in his living room at noon Monday when he heard a report of the sniping at the University of Texas.

Whitman said he taught his son about guns at an early age.

"I'm a fanatic about guns," Whitman said. "I'm a great hunter. My boys knew about guns. I believe in that."

Charles, he said, was the best hunter in the family.

"He was always a crack shot," his father said.

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—Associated Press

This photograph of Charles Whitman was found when film from his camera was developed after he had been killed Monday.